

# Architect of the Senate's Intelligence Bill

Walter Darlington Huddleston

By JAMES T. WOOTEN  
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WASHINGTON, Feb. 9—When he was mustered out of the infantry after World War II, Walter Darlington Huddleston enrolled at the University of Kentucky under the G.I. Bill of Rights with one major dream: to earn a place on the varsity basketball squad.

Man in the News He was, in locker-room vernacular, a "walk-on," unrecruited by the Wildcats' venerable coach, Adolph Rupp, but undaunted by the presence on that year's team of such luminaries as Ralph Beard and Alex Groza.

Day after day, he practiced in the fieldhouse on the Lexington, Ky., campus, and, night after night, he would dismally report to his college sweetheart, Jean Pierce, that things were just not going all that well.

"If Rupp would just notice me," he would lament. "If he'd just take a look at me, I could make it. I know I could."

He never made the team, but in the 34 years since that unproductive autumn Senator Huddleston, a first-term Democrat from Kentucky who is up for re-election this fall, has found other ways to attract notice.

Moving from radio disk jockey to sportscaster to station manager and finally into politics, he discovered that his easy-going demeanor and careful attention to detail were perceived as assets by listeners and voters. Using those same assets over the past three years, he has become the principal architect of legislation that would substantially reorient the American intelligence community.

The bill, introduced in Congress today, would significantly limit the scope of covert operations by Central Intelligence Agency and other organizations, prohibit political assassinations, and protect the privacy and civil rights of American citizens from abusive practices of the past. If passed, it would supersede President Carter's executive order issued last month addressing the same subject.

## Three Years of Investigation

The legislation evolved slowly after three years of rather steady investigation by the Senate's Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations With Respect to Intelligence Activities, a group whose chairman, Senator Frank Church, an Idaho Democrat, spent large portions of 1976 running unsuccessfully for the Democratic Presidential nomination.

"Huddleston and Mondale shored up that committee in a very critical hour," a former member of the committee staff recalled today. "They were the guiding forces for what came to be known as 'The Church Report' and, since the election, Huddleston has been the spine of the remaining work."

Senator Huddleston is described by associates as a soft-voiced man with temperate habits and intense self-discipline. And the 51-year old Kentucky native's voting record on Capitol Hill reflects a carefully mixed ideology, colored by liberalism but weighted by the traditional conservatism of his roots



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Discussing a point at the Senate Intelligence Committee's news conference yesterday were Senators Walter Huddleston, left, chairman of a reforms subcommittee, and Birch Bayh, chairman of the full committee.

and of his hero, former Senator and Vice President Alben W. Barkley.

"He's a very careful liberal," a former aide said today. "He has very good instincts—as though he has a sense of his own vulnerability as a new boy in the Senate and of his potential durability if he handles things well."

Senator Huddleston, who is known to friends as Dee and who ran his successful 1972 Senate campaign under the same name, is "of the Rayburn school," the assistant said. "He believes in taking the long view and making the long haul."

Recent reports that he had decided to cast his vote for the ratification of the Panama Canal treaties because the Carter Administration had agreed to soften its anti-cigarette-smoking stand (tobacco is a Kentucky staple) were denied today by one of the Senator's aides who ventured a guess as to how they arose.

## Appointment with the President

When the cigar-smoking Senator found out about the no-smoking campaign of the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, Joseph A. Califano Jr., last month, the aide said, he asked for and received an appointment with the President during which he

asked for and received "a reaffirmation of Carter's campaign commitment to support a continuation of tobacco price supports."

In the Senator's office sits a picture of him as a young radio announcer back in Bowling Green, Ky., interviewing Mr. Barkley. Senator Huddleston had moved there in 1949 soon after his graduation from the university.

After four years he moved to Elizabethtown, near Louisville, where he became the manager of a small station. He was elected to the state legislature in 1965 and served there until elected to the Senate in 1972.

The Huddlestons—he married Jean Pierce, the girl to whom he complained about Mr. Rupp's not noticing him—have two sons: Stephen, a 27-year-old attorney in Lexington, and Philip, 22, at work in his father's re-election campaign. The couple maintains a condominium in Elizabethtown and a home in Arlington, Va., a Washington suburb.

"The only thing he doesn't really like about it here is that he's become known as 'Walter,'" his wife said today. "He hates that. When anyone says to me, 'Sure, I know Walter very well,' I always know better."